



**SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Work Session  
Wednesday, November 19, 2025

**VISION STATEMENT**

Students are equipped to realize their dreams and aspirations.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Together we will foster student skills to achieve their goals and thrive in an ever-changing world.

**AGENDA**

MEETING: 12:00 PM

LOCATION: Hollis School and via Audio/Video Conference  
101 School Loop Road  
Hollis, Alaska 99950

VIRTUAL URL:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84024602939?pwd=PhRdkx7UkUu5b3M3YkfCSgT8VvQAF9.1>

1. REVIEW OF STUDENT CELL PHONE & PERSONAL DEVICE USE SURVEYS

2

## **BP 5138 Student Possession & Use of Portable Electronic Devices, Including Cellular Phones**

The Board recognizes that many students possess and use cell phones and other portable electronic devices. These devices serve an important purpose in facilitating communication between the student and ~~his or her~~their family, as well as serving as tools to access electronic information. In the school setting, portable electronic devices are permitted so long as their use is consistent with this policy and does not interfere with the educational process or with safety and security.

*(cf. 5030 – School Discipline and Safety)*

### **Educational Uses**

In many instances, there is educational value in utilizing portable electronic devices in the classroom when such devices deliver content, and extend, enhance, and/or reinforce a ~~student's~~student's learning process related to the ~~student's~~student's learning style, the instructional objectives of the class and/or the learning environment. The appropriateness of in-class use of these devices consistent with the instructional objectives within instructional time will be determined by the classroom teacher with the approval by the building administrator.

Use of portable electronic devices for students with disabilities will be outlined in a ~~student's~~student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan, as determined appropriate by the IEP or 504 Team.

*(cf. 6159 – Individualized Education Program)*

If use of a portable electronic device is required in individual instances (not provided for in an IEP or 504 plan) to assist a student with the ~~student's~~student's education, permission must be obtained in writing from a building administrator prior to use of the portable electronic device at any time when such use would otherwise be prohibited by this policy. In case of an emergency, verbal permission by a teacher or administrator is required in situations where permission can be obtained.

### **Conditions of Use – Cellular Phones**

~~Students may possess and use portable electronic devices including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, music players, tablets, laptops, etc., subject to limitations of this and other policies of the district.~~

~~Portable electronic devices shall not be turned on or used in any way: (1) during other school sponsored~~

Note: School boards may select one of the two options for the use of cellular phones in schools. These conditions may be modified as desired.

(Option 1): High school students (grades 9 - 12) may use cellular phones and other personal portable electronic devices before and after school, during passing periods, and during the student's lunch period. Elementary and middle school students (grades K-8) may use such devices only before and after school. Devices should be powered off and put away at all other times.

Commented [CP1]: This reflects our current policy (see section deleted below the note lower on this page)

(Option 2): Students may use cellular phones and other personal portable electronic devices only before and after school. Such devices should be powered off and put away at all other times.

Cellular phones shall be powered off during instructional time and supervised group activities during the school day (for example, student assemblies, awards, or other public ceremonies, etc.); or (2) when their use is otherwise prohibited by school unless authorized by supervising personnel.

Commented [CP2]: AASB does not have this section. I believe we added it to clarify expectations

*(cf. 6116 – Classroom Interruptions)*

Instructional time includes the entire period of a scheduled class and other time when students are directed to report to and participate in any instructional activity. The principal may establish, and school personnel may enforce, additional guidelines limiting or prohibiting the possession and use of portable electronic devices as appropriate to campus needs. The learning environment includes all times that a student is on school grounds during the school day and when school sponsored and supervised group activities are held.

No student may use a cellular phone or portable electronic device in a manner, or at a time, that interferes with or is disruptive of another student's learning environment. The learning environment includes all times that a student is on school grounds during the school day and when school sponsored and supervised group activities are held.

~~Note: The following optional paragraph reflects the guidelines used by the Anchorage School District to specify permitted uses based on grade level. It may be revised or deleted as appropriate.~~

~~No student may use a cellular phone or portable electronic device in a manner, or at a time, that interferes with or is disruptive of other student's instructional time. High school students may use cellular phones and other portable electronic devices before and after school and during the student's lunch period. Elementary and middle school students (grades K-8) may use such devices only before and after school. Additionally, no student may use a cellular phone or portable electronic device in a manner, or at a time, that interferes with or is disruptive of other students' instructional time.~~

*(cf. 6116 – Classroom Interruptions)*

During the school day and ~~school sponsored activities~~ instructional time, students will comply with this policy and with administrative and staff member directives regarding

use. Students are required to turn cell phones and other portable electronic devices over to school personnel when requested. Students who refuse to do so are subject to disciplinary action.

A cellular phone or portable electronic device that has been confiscated by the district and not turned over to law enforcement will be released/returned to the parent/guardian when no longer necessary for investigation or disciplinary proceedings. As appropriate, the cellular phone or portable electronic device may be returned directly to the student.

The district assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to personal property of students, including cell phones and other portable electronic devices, whether in the possession of students or if confiscated by school personnel pursuant to this policy.

### Prohibited Conduct

Possession of a cellular ~~telephone~~ phone or other portable electronic device by students is a privilege. This privilege will be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of the device so as to violate the law or any other school or district rule. In addition to those conduct rules set forth elsewhere, the following actions are strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action:

1. Accessing and/or viewing an Internet site that is otherwise blocked to students at school.
2. Sending an e-mail, text message or other communication that harasses, intimidates, threatens, bullies, or discriminates against another individual.
3. Taking, sending, downloading or uploading a harassing, threatening, or inappropriate photograph of anyone.
4. Using a cell phone/smartphone, camera or other recording device to take photos or videos in a restroom, dressing room, or locker room, or to take a photo or video of any person who has requested that you not do so.
5. Using a camera or other recording device to record or capture the content of tests, assessments, homework, or class work without express prior permission from the instructor.
6. Hacking or intentionally obtaining, accessing, or modifying files, passwords, or data belonging to others.
7. Taking, using, or accessing another individual's cell phone or other portable electronic device without their permission.

Commented [CP3]: AASB does not have this wording. I believe we added it to clarify expectations

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### Exceptions and Permitted Use

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to prohibit the use of cellular phones or other electronic devices when used for medical or translation purposes, or when a teacher or administrator of the school grants permission for a student to use a cellular phone or electronic device for educational purpose.

(cf. 5131 – Conduct)

(cf. 5131.4 – Campus Disturbances)

(cf. 5131.41 – Violent and Aggressive Conduct)

(cf. 5131.42 – Threats of Violence)

(cf. 5131.43 – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying)

(cf. 5131.9 – Academic Honesty)

(cf. 5137 – Positive School Climate)

(cf. 6161.4 – Internet)

(cf. 6161.5 – Web Sites/Pages)

#### **Searches**

The contents of a cell phone/smartphone, camera, or other portable electronic device may be searched to determine ownership, to identify emergency contacts, or upon reasonable suspicion that a school or district rule or the law has been violated.

(cf. 5145.12 – Search and Seizure)

~~Added 10/27/10~~

#### Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.33.300 Wireless telecommunications device policy

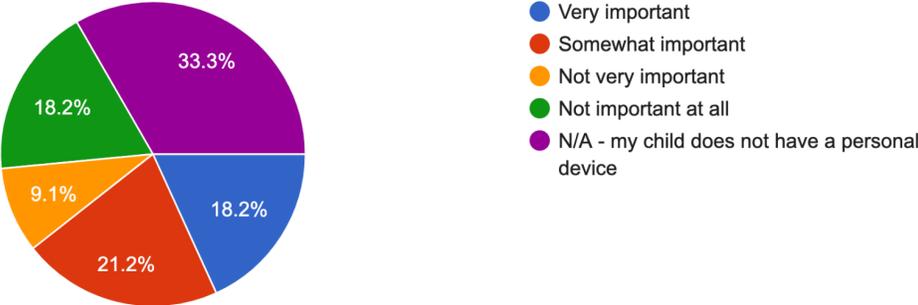
Revised 3/2012, 09/2024

**Southeast Island School District**

# SISD Parent/Guardian Survey – Student Cell Phone & Personal Device Use November 2025

How important is it for you to be able to reach your child during the school day using their personal device?

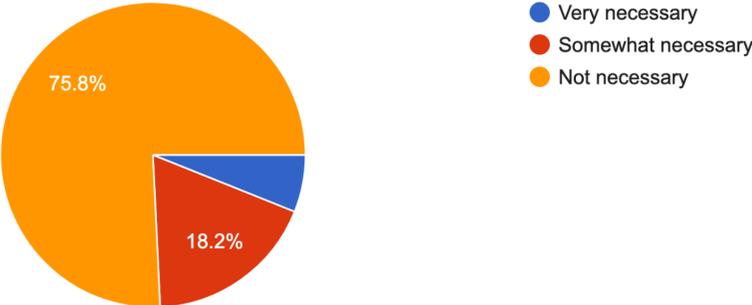
33 responses



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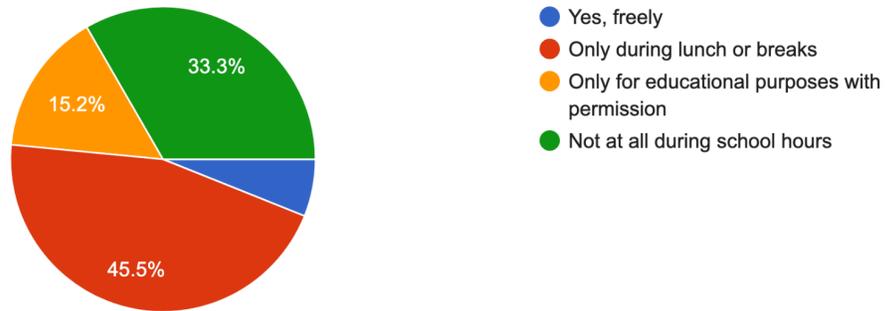
Since students already have a school-issued, filtered device for learning, how necessary do you believe personal devices are during the academic day?

33 responses



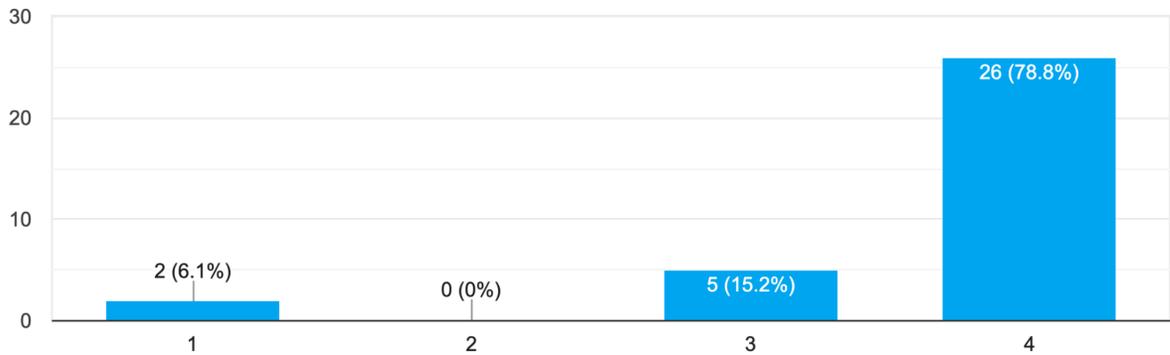
Do you believe students should be allowed to use personal devices during the school day?

33 responses



Limiting personal device use during instructional time helps students focus and learn better.

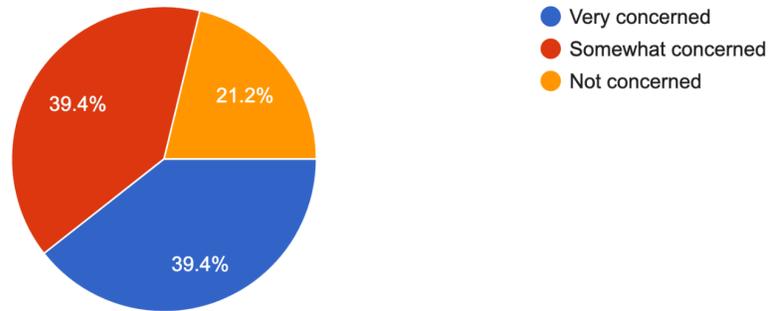
33 responses



(1 = Strongly Disagree; 4 = Strongly Agree)

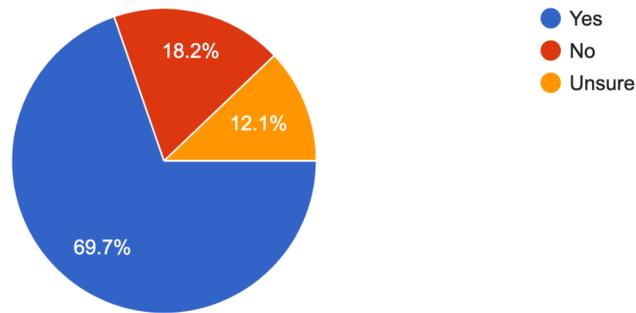
How concerned are you that personal devices can access unfiltered or unsafe online content while at school?

33 responses



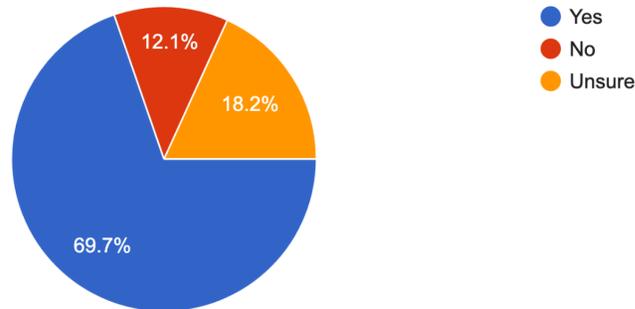
Do you feel the school provides adequate ways to contact your child or receive updates during the school day (e.g., through the front office or teacher communication tools)?

33 responses



Would you support a district-wide, consistent policy limiting personal device use during the school day?

33 responses



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**Additional thoughts/suggestions shared regarding student personal device and cell phone use (18 responses total - responses summarized using ChatGPT)**

1. Phones Allowed Only During Lunch or Breaks (6 responses)

Respondents support access to phones during non-instructional times such as lunch, recess, and passing periods.

2. Safety & Emergency Communication Needs (5 responses)

Respondents noted that students may need their devices for emergencies, medical conditions, and due to challenges reaching the school by phone.

3. Restrict Phones During Instructional Time (7 responses)

Respondents emphasized removing phone distractions during lessons to support learning and social interaction.

4. Academic, Assistive, or Medical Use (4 responses)

Phones can support assistive technology, chronic illness needs, or teacher-approved academic activities.

5. Inappropriate Use & Digital Citizenship (4 responses)

Concerns included violent games, inappropriate content, and secret recordings. Respondents support clear expectations and accountability.

6. Concerns About Overly Strict Rules (3 responses)

Respondents concerned that strict bans increase conflict and recommend enforceable, consistent consequences instead.

7. School Communication Challenges (3 responses)

Respondents reported unreliable school phone access, driving a preference for student devices as backup communication.

8. Privacy & Device Search Concerns (6 responses)

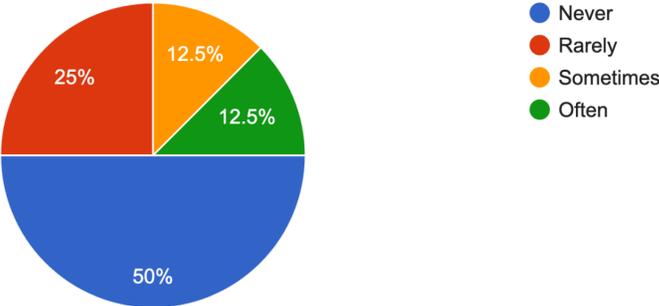
Respondents strongly emphasized parental rights regarding searching phones and limiting confiscation duration.

# Student Survey – Cell Phone & Personal Device Use November 2025

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How often do you use your personal cell phone or other device during the school day (outside of lunch)?

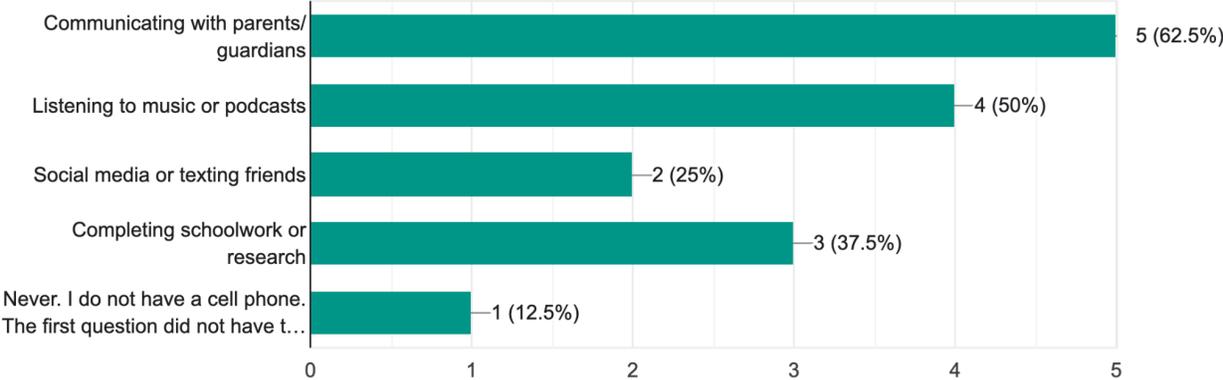
8 responses



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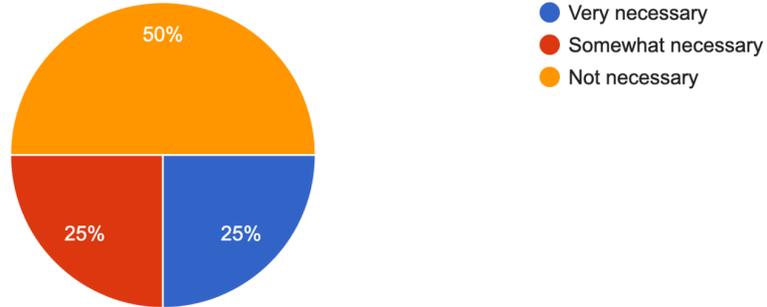
For what purposes do you usually use your personal device at school? (Select all that apply)

8 responses



Since all students have a school-issued, filtered device, how necessary do you think personal devices are for learning during the school day?

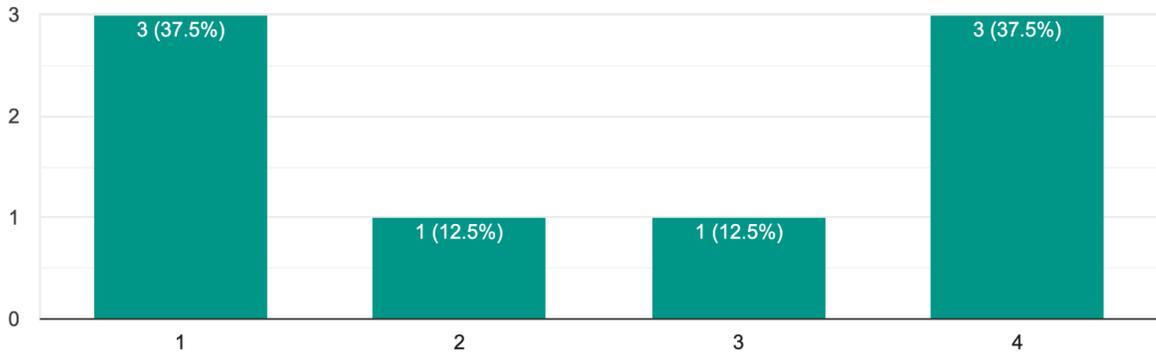
8 responses



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Cell phones and other personal devices are a distraction during instructional time.

8 responses

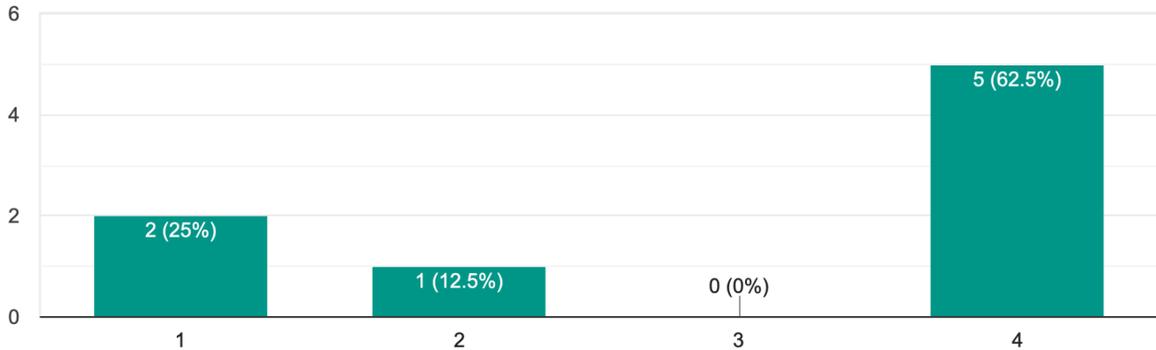


(1 = Strongly Disagree; 4 = Strongly Agree)

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How fair do you think it is to restrict personal device use during class time (except for approved educational purposes)?

8 responses



(1 = Very Unfair; 4 = Very Fair)

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How should the school handle students who use personal devices when they are not allowed?

8 responses



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**Other thoughts/suggestions shared about how personal devices should be managed at school (5 responses total - responses summarized using ChatGPT):**

1. Use During Lunch or Recess (2 responses)

Respondents supported phone access during non-instructional times such as recess and lunch.

2. Complete Ban on Phones (2 responses)

Respondents supported not bringing phones to school to avoid distractions and simplify expectations.

3. Case-by-Case Enforcement (1 response)

Respondent suggested individualized discipline—address misuse only when disruptive and allow music if it helps students focus.

4. Direct Communication With Family (1 response)

Respondent expressed concern that rules should not prevent receiving urgent messages directly without staff mediation.

5. Academic Use for School Tasks (1 response)

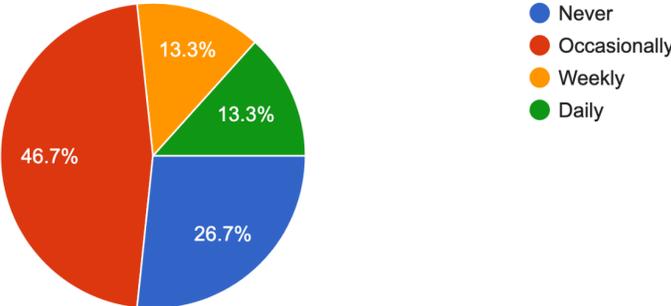
Phones can support certain school needs such as taking photos of completed work to share with parents.

# Staff Survey – Student Cell Phone & Personal Device Use November 2025

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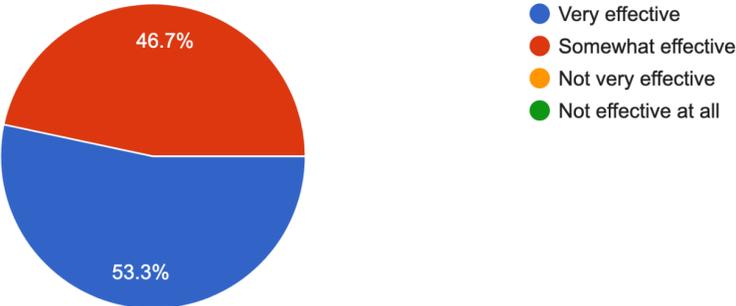
How frequently do personal devices disrupt learning or classroom management?

15 responses



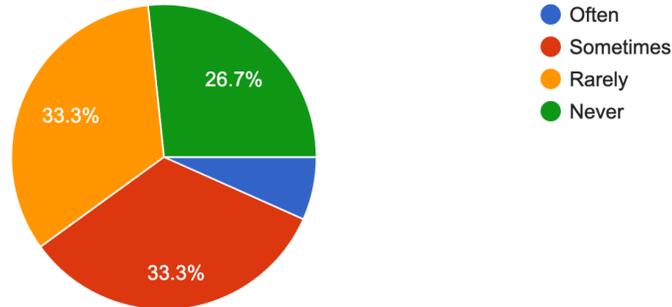
How effective is the current cell phone/personal device policy in maintaining focus and minimizing distractions?

15 responses



Considering that every student already has a school-issued, filtered device, do you believe personal devices are needed for instruction?

15 responses



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**If yes, in what ways have personal devices supported instruction or learning? (13 responses total - summarized using ChatGPT)**

1. Phones Not Needed for Learning (4 responses)

Respondents indicated that students already have district devices and phones often distract more than they support learning.

2. Limited Academic Use: Photos & Documentation (6 responses)

Useful for taking photos/videos for projects, presentations, field trips, or capturing notes.

3. Outdoor Learning & Field Trips (3 responses)

Phones support tasks like plant identification, data collection, or documenting learning where laptops are impractical.

4. Access to Online Work During Travel (1 response)

Phones may allow access to Google Classroom, email, and coursework when laptops cannot connect.

5. Family Communication (2 responses)

Occasional use to contact parents or guardians when needed.

6. Digital Citizenship & Responsible Use (2 responses)

Respondents emphasized teaching real-world responsible device habits and appropriate boundaries.

7. Established "No Phone" School Practices (1 response)

Respondent stores student phones during the day, allowing limited, permission-only access.

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**What challenges do you face in enforcing the personal device policy in your classroom? (15 responses total - summarized using ChatGPT)**

1. No Issues Reported / Policy Working Smoothly (6 responses)

Several respondents reported that students follow expectations, with little to no misuse and only occasional redirection needed. Elementary classrooms generally experience no issues.

2. Inconsistent Enforcement Across Staff (3 responses)

Some respondents noted inconsistency in how the policy is enforced, leading students to challenge rules and causing classroom disruptions.

3. Phone Use in Bathrooms (3 responses)

A recurring challenge involves students going to the restroom to use their phones, often staying for extended periods and missing instructional time.

4. Integrity Issues Are Rare and Manageable (1 response)

Sneaking phones occurs occasionally, but respondents described these incidents as opportunities for student growth rather than grounds for stricter bans.

5. Use Allowed as a Documented Accommodation (1 response)

Phone use may be permitted when included in a student's accommodation or modification plan.

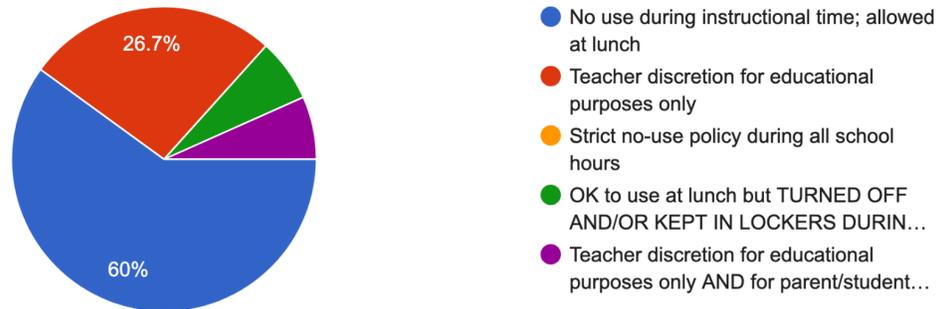
6. Classroom Storage Systems (1 response)

Some classrooms use storage solutions, such as wall-mounted pockets, to keep devices secured during instructional time.

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## What level of restriction do you believe is appropriate during the academic day?

15 responses



Full text for green section: OK to use at lunch but TURNED OFF AND/OR KEPT IN LOCKERS DURING ALL PERIODS OF THE SCHOOL DAY, INCLUDING DURING ELECTIVES. Students are getting way too lax about usage during electives (5th and 6th periods). I would also suggest that school computers are NOT allowed in PE. Many of the MS students are hanging out on the bleachers during PE and on their computers for the entire time.

Full text for purple section: Teacher discretion for educational purposes only AND for parent/student communication or for teens, communication w bosses, access to their personal emails

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## What supports or tools would help staff consistently enforce the policy? (15 responses total - summarized using ChatGPT)

### 1. Consistent Enforcement Across Campuses (6 responses)

Respondents emphasized the need for uniform rules across all schools and staff, clear guidelines, and consistent consequences.

### 2. Strong Parent Support (4 responses)

Parent buy-in is essential. Conflicting messages from home make enforcement difficult and undermine classroom expectations.

### 3. Reliable School Communication Systems (1 response)

A stronger phone system is needed so parents and students can communicate without relying on personal devices.

### 4. Staff Modeling Appropriate Use (1 response)

Staff should limit personal phone use to breaks and lunch to model expectations for students.

5. Shared School-Wide Culture & Reasonableness (1 response)

A unified, reasonable culture around cell phone expectations helps build trust and reinforce integrity across the community.

6. Classroom Phone Storage Solutions (1 response)

Standardized storage systems such as wall pockets can help manage devices during instructional time.

7. Clear Rules for Field Trips & Transit (1 response)

Respondents noted the need for clarified guidelines for device use during student travel and off-campus activities.

8. Recognition of Teacher Efforts (1 response)

Teachers were acknowledged for strong enforcement efforts despite challenges.

9. No Suggestions / Uncertain (2 responses)

Some respondents were unsure of what additional supports were needed or indicated no concerns.

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How concerned are you about the lack of internet filtering on personal devices used at school?

15 responses

